

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2006 AGM – accepted at 2007 AGM

Held at Paynes Park Social Club, Hitchin

on Monday 19th June 2006 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 23 (16 voting – 1 representing both Purwell A and B and 1 representing both Cam Gears A and B) including all four committee members (Non attendees: Norton & Baldock, Saracens and Whitwell.)

Papers available; agenda, 2005 extract minutes, 2005 draft minutes, balance sheets, Presentation figures etc, Marshall Trophy figures etc and Ladies Section report etc, league tables.

1. Apologies, None
2. Opening address and 2005 AGM minutes Jan Macfarlane thanked all those present for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season, Committee colleagues – Ken for the organisation of the cup competitions, Chris for the Ladies Section and Ian for the finances. Jan also briefly commented on various aspects of the 2005/2006 season.
The 2005 AGM minutes were accepted.
3. Ladies Section Chris Bullock referred to distributed information including a written report (see website) on League Results, Henriksson Tournament, Venue, Finance and Social Report; another good season.
Chris was thanked once more for her organisation of this particular part of the SBL.
4. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information (see website) which as usual includes income and expenditure for the complete (2005/6) season. Successful tournaments and Presentations help to keep finances healthy. For the first time for many years the SBL has not taken advantage of Brendon Lee's good offices and we have paid for the 2006 AGM but Paynes Park is a good, value for money venue. Ian recommended no changes for subscriptions for 2006/7.
The balance sheet(s) were approved. No changes to 2005/6 subscriptions.
5. Fixtures and 6. Results Jan reported on the distributed information (3 divisions of 21 teams, as 2004/5). There were matches NOT played that affected promotion and relegation places and the Committee had to make decisions accordingly. One match in Division 1 was still to play (on TUESDAY 20 JUNE 2006) which really was unacceptable. Jan yet again stressed that she distributes the fixtures 'early' but subsequent 'postponed' matches (that involved change of dates) had not been in accordance with SBL rules with new dates NOT being advised to Jan. Jan identified a further 'difficulty' whereby Codicote were in runners-up position in Division 2 but there was a real possibility that if all matches had been played that they would have finished 4th. 1 match had not been played because Saracens had left a message on an answerphone, THE EVENING BEFORE THE MATCH WAS DUE TO BE PLAYED and then Saracens did not turn up; the answerphone message had not been 'received' so the home team (Cam Gears) were not pleased. Onyx and Codicote had an unfinished match and it was suggested that Onyx could cease 'setting' to save time – they are likely to consider this.

Another non-played match was Broadway and Whitwell and this also was likely to have affected Division 1/Division 2 teams for season 2006/7.

All these situations were discussed and additionally the cost of unused courts. Suggestions to improve the situation included; a 'drop-dead (end of season)-date' and more use of the average system.

Jan said if matches are causing difficulties with a narrow time-frame the club contacts should contact her for her assistance. Richard Adams also generously offered his services re procuring Knights Templar School for matches that are proving difficult to arrange.

With pre-season entry forms in on time from clubs and fixtures out early from Jan, scheduling matches being played BY THE END OF MARCH and ANY CHANGES in accordance with the 'change of dates rule' should ensure all matches are played.

Full divisional honours as shown on the website;-

Winners D1: Masters, Runners Up: TBA (1 MATCH TO PLAY; St Johns v Norton & Baldock); Winners D2: Hitchin Town, Runners Up: Codicote;(Not all D2 matches completed) Winners D3: Icarus, Runners Up: Lingwood.

7. SBL CUP & TALOR CUP.

Ken Abbott advised that 12 teams (1 down from previous season) entered (but 2 forfeited games) in the SBL Cup with the final result being Gosmore 3 (winners on games won), Norton & Baldock 3. Gosmore went on to play Masters in the Taylor Cup final with the result, Masters 5, Gosmore 1. Ken expressed disappointment about the 'forfeits' and encouraged teams to enter (AND play). Simon suggested a handicapping system (to give lower placed league teams a better chance when playing D1 teams). Gabor would appreciate a handicap to encourage his team of youngsters (Academy) to enter the cup. Richard Adams was disappointed that as holders of the Taylor Cup, Masters were excluded from the Taylor Cup (this had been a deliberate attempt to encourage more teams to play in the cup – by excluding the SBL's current dominant team – previously Cam Gears).

Discussion included handicapping (where negative scores could mean more court time required) and court costs (again) when away teams called off matches at short notice.

There was a vote regarding introducing handicapping which resulted in a 50/50 split of those who voted. However **IT WAS AGREED** that the SBL Committee should consider having a handicap cup competition. Simon Carter also suggested a plate competition for those who lost their first round cup match.

[2007 DATES – SEE WEBSITE]

8. Tournaments. Jan reported on 2 very successful tournaments and reminded the meeting that because of the regular Ladies Section matches there is not a separate Ladies Doubles tournament. In the previous year people (entering late) had to be turned away because of the large number of entries, this season more court time was booked and an earlier start made for the 25+ couples to have a good tournament. In the Mens', Richard Adams suffered an injury to prevent him carrying on but even he (now recovered) expressed his enjoyment. Jan said that depending on entries it might be possible to have a separate D3 section next season. **Jan said that dates for 2006/2007 tournaments had already been booked – SEE WEBSITE.**

9. Inter-league match – Marshall Trophy. Ian reported on the now ‘usual’ format whereby every team in both the Stevenage and Letchworth leagues were invited to nominate players to play in this end of season ‘for fun’ match. Even with the leagues not having the same number of divisions (Letchworth, 2 and Stevenage 3) efforts by both committees (particularly Jan and Bob Green) and clubs have produced 3 ‘sections’/matches in the Letchworth, 3 men, 3 ladies format and all who have taken part seem to have enjoyed playing. In this year’s match played at Knights Templar leisure centre the Letchworth league regained the trophy by winning 2 (division/sections) - 1. As last year it was an extremely exciting finale and the last best of 3-game rubber in division/section one, being won by Letchworth. If Stevenage had won it they would have won the Marshall Trophy – ie it was again, all on the last game of the last of the 18 rubbers!
10. Presentation(s). Ian reported on the success again of the (joint – with Letchworth league) 2006 Presentation which repeated the previous year’s format of a 5-round quiz in the first half then presentation followed by a disco. There were nearly 130 people (including 10 under 18s) – this is an increase of over 30 from last year. The Pembroke Suite at North Herts Leisure Centre was unavailable and the new venue (Baldock Community Centre) had to paid for the first time in 3 years. Ian thanked his ‘joint committee’ colleagues, in particular Simon Bygrave who provides among other things, rounds for the quiz, Diana Meakin, Bob Green and also Gary Starling who made sure everyone was seated also! The popularity was likely to mean the same format in 2007.
11. 2006/2007 Committee. The Committee confirmed their willingness to continue and it was agreed that **Ian, Jan, Chris Bullock and Ken Abbott would remain the SBL Committee. Words of appreciation and support for continuity came from Gabor and Simon Carter and others.**
12. 2006/7 divisions As usual the (3) divisions would depend on the number of teams re-entering and although it is **usually ‘2 up 2 down’, it was likely to be ‘1 up 1down’ between D1 and D2** – (only 1 team ‘adrift’ in D1 and through non-played matches in D2, the order of the 4 top teams would probably have been different if the matches had been played.
13. Any Other Business
 (i) Denise Peat memorial trophy Ian advised on the background regarding John and Denise Peat’s SMBL/SBL involvement and support for many years, particularly as Committee members. Denise sadly passed away in 2005 and John wished to provide a trophy in her memory. John was keen to have the trophy associated with youngsters and in particular would like to present the award for a ‘special’ performance rather than for being a ‘winner’. Jan said how several of the SBL league players including Rob Wade, Gabor were coaching and bringing on youngsters. The thought is to try and have a tournament for possibly under 21s or even under 18s in the Autumn of 2006. **Jan will progress this with Rob and Gabor.**

(ii) Change of Match dates SEE 5 and 6 ABOVE.

(iii) Registration of players There had been a problem with one player which meant that Gosmore had lost a rubber by having a player in a match who was already registered with another team. Jan reminded the meeting that once registered, players were effectively committed to the team they were registered for, until the end of the season for which they were registered and no player can be registered for more than one club in a season.

This item lead on to discussion of

(iv) Insurance Ian reminded the meeting that the insurance had been in place for many years, principally to protect the Committee and also provide 'member to member liability' for SBL organised matches and tournaments. Details were provided on the website. The SBL was not affiliated (to Badminton England) and not all clubs playing in the SBL were affiliated so some insurance cover was provided accordingly.

(v) Notification by website Jan advised that after the initial package of information was despatched by post to all 2006/7 SBL teams, **unless team contacts advised otherwise, all information would be via the website.**

(vi) Shuttles Jan said that the Letchworth league may opt for changing to shuttles provided by the Goodes – Ashaway, but in responses from those present **Mavis 370s were still going to be used by SBL teams for the forthcoming season (teams to formally advise on the team entry forms). Strings would (still) be using Carlton F1s.**

(vii) Scoring With official scoring in international and county matches changing 'to 21' and scoring on every serve (ie not only when serving), a discussion took place regarding SBL matches. Herts County teams were voting on the change and Biggleswade were not changing. At the Hertford Area AGM it was agreed to wait until probably everyone/league would change possibly next year/season 2007/8. It was felt that games would be quicker and apart from one abstention, **IT WAS AGREED to 'wait and see' so for 2006/7 retain the current 'to 15' scoring but possibly consider having (a) tournament with the new system.**

(viii) Mens Singles Ladder Mark Cook of Onyx offered to run a Mens Singles ladder and those present expressed an interest and also on behalf of others. **Those who wished to pursue this offer were asked to respond via the website.** This would be an SBL activity and before starting the new activity would need to be advised to insurers and details, rules etc would need to be in place, not least making court arrangements. Mark indicated that there was possibly a website in place that could be used in which to register and make arrangements etc.

(ix) Courtesy Ian said that 'bad language' appeared to be on the increase and the matter had been raised at the Hertford Area League AGM. In general it was said by players (men and sometimes women) 'to themselves' but Ian asked those present to **ask players to restrain their outbursts**, because, in particular, like the Hertford Area, the SBL has an increasing number of younger players and good examples should be set for other players and spectators.

(x) Refreshments Pat Hall asked about the provision of reasonable refreshments and although this had been a problem in the past, all teams provided drinks and some biscuits as a minimum and others provided fruit and cheese and some, sandwiches and cakes. The minimum was usually adequate and anything more was usually appreciated by away teams.

14. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-PRINTED (WITH TEAM'S NAMES ON) PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR AGM ATTENDEES AND 'SECOND TEAMS') WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY FRIDAY 21st JULY 2006) and also Ladies Section forms were available.**
The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

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17/7/06

The website address is www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk.